



Accessibility Guide

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General Park Information

North Cascades National Park, established in 1968, contains some of America's most beautiful mountain scenery – high jagged peaks, ridges, slopes, and countless cascading waterfalls. Glaciers scarred with crevasses, permanent snowfields, sheer-walled cliffs, spires, and pinnacles challenge mountaineers.

Ross Lake National Recreation Area protects its namesake lake and stretches of the Skagit River below the dams established by Seattle City Light. Lake Chelan National Recreation Area is at the north end of 50 mile-long Lake Chelan, a natural lake set in a glacier-carved trough. At 1,486 feet, it is the nation's third deepest lake.

Entering the Park



There is no entrance fee for entering North Cascades National Park Service Complex.

U.S. citizens or permanent residents who are blind or permanently disabled are eligible for the Interagency Access Pass. This free, lifetime admission pass is valid at National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service sites. The Access Pass must be obtained in person and with proof of eligibility. The pass is nontransferable and does not cover or reduce special recreation permit fees or fees charged by concessionaires.

It admits the pass owner and accompanying passengers in a private vehicle. (At parks that charge individual fees, the pass admits the pass owner, spouse, parents, children, and other persons accompanying the owner, such as care assistants.) The Access Pass also provides a 50% discount on federal use fees charged for facilities

and services such as camping, swimming, parking, boat launching, and specialized interpretive services. Visitors must supply the pass number when making a camping reservation. In some cases where use fees are charged, only the pass owner receives the 50% price reduction.

The pass is available at Park Headquarters in Sedro-Woolley, Wilderness Information Center in Marblemount, Glacier Public Service Center in Glacier, National Park Visitor Center near Newhalem, and Golden West Visitor Center in Stehekin.

For more information about passes, see www.nps.gov/fees_passes.htm

Parking



Designated accessible spaces are marked with the international access symbol and are reserved for vehicles displaying an accessibility placard or license plate.

Service Animals

Service animals are allowed in all facilities and on all trails, with the exceptions of stock trails and areas closed by the superintendent to protect park resources. Service animals must always be leashed. When traveling with an animal, carry water and allow for stops. Dispose of pet feces in a trash bin.

Getting Around North Cascades

Sightseeing by Car Many of North Cascades' fine views and points of interest can be seen from State Route 20 which traverses the park. Sightseeing guidebooks and other information are available at Park Headquarters in Sedro-Woolley or in the Visitor Center near Newhalem.

Diablo: Seattle City Light has a historic lake cruise on Diablo Lake departing from the Skagit Tours Information Center in Newhalem. Call Skagit Tours at (206) 684-3030 for further information and accessibility.

Cascade Pass: A 23-mile paved and gravel road leads to a trailhead and picnic area where waterfalls and hanging glaciers can be seen across a valley.

Hozomeen: Hozomeen is North Cascades National Park Service Complex's most northern vehicle access, set on the scenic Canada/United States Border. Visitors to Hozomeen arrive via a 40-mile gravel road from Hope, British Columbia.

The Stehekin Shuttle The Stehekin Shuttle operates daily from Memorial Day through October 1 between the Stehekin Landing and High Bridge. The bus accommodates backpacks, bicycles, and pets. There is a fee charged for the shuttle. The shuttle bus is currently not wheelchair accessible

Services

Gas There are no gas stations in the park on State Route 20, Hozomeen, or Cascade Pass. Gas is available at Stehekin Landing Resort in Stehekin. Outside the park gas stations are located in Marblemount, Mazama, Winthrop, and Chelan. Pay-at-the-pump service is available with a debit or credit card 24 hours a day in all communities except Mazama. Attendants can assist with fuel service during business hours.

Wheelchairs



A manual wheelchair is available at the Visitor Center near Newhalem. Check the park website for when the Visitor Center is open: www.nps.gov/noca

Telephone Services

Cell-phone signal strength is marginal in most of North Cascades. There are calling card phones at several locations throughout the park.

Post Offices



There are post offices in Marblemount, Newhalem, Mazama, Winthrop, Chelan, and Stehekin (not wheelchair accessible).

Health Concerns

Weather Temperatures in North Cascades vary widely depending on season, elevation, and time of day; they can change rapidly and unexpectedly. Summer daytime temperatures usually range from the low 80s in the Newhalem area and the 90s in Stehekin; nighttime lows usually range in the 50s. Snowy, rainy, or even sunny days are possible in winter, with daytime highs in the 30s to 50s and lows in the upper 20s. The western side of the North Cascades gets more rain, is cloudier, and has lower temperatures than the eastern side.

Pay attention to the weather, and be aware of extreme temperatures. Dress appropriately for the season (in layers, if possible); bring rain gear. Carry and drink plenty of water, and take rest breaks during physical activity.

Elevation The Visitor Center near Newhalem is 550 feet above sea level. Elevations in the park range from about 400 feet above sea level at the western entrance near Bacon Creek to 5,477 feet at Washington Pass east of the park on SR 20.

Smoke and Fire In North Cascades, fire is a natural part of the ecosystem and important for maintaining healthy forests. Smoky skies from wildland fires are possible in spring, summer, and fall. Trained fire crews use prescribed burns to clear unnatural build-up of plant material in developed areas. Expert fire-management crews monitor all fires carefully. Visitors with respiratory conditions should call (360) 854-7200 to speak with a ranger during business hours on weekdays or visit the National Interagency Fire Center web site for a fire update:
www.nifc.gov/fire_info/nfn.htm

Medical Facilities



There are no medical facilities in the park. Some park rangers are qualified emergency medical technicians or wilderness first responders.

The Newhalem Volunteer Fire Department located in the town of Newhalem can provide some emergency response from SR 20. There is a pull box outside the fire station that will sound the alarm for assistance.

The hospitals nearest to North Cascades are located in:

- Wenatchee (south of the park, off Highway 97)
- Sedro-Woolley (west of the park, off SR 20)

Hospitals outside North Cascades with a range of services include:

United General Hospital
2000 Hospital Drive
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
(360) 856-6021
Located just off State Route 20

Skagit Valley Hospital
1415 East Kincaid Street
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
(360) 424-4111
Located off I-5 at Exit 226

Wenatchee Valley Hospital
820 North Chelan Avenue
Wenatchee, WA 98807
(509) 663-8711

Camping in North Cascades

Reservations

Most campgrounds are on a first-come, first-served basis. Each campground has accessible sites. Family campsites in Loop C of Newhalem Creek Campground and group sites in Goodell Creek and Newhalem Creek Campgrounds may be reserved in advance by calling (877) 444-6777, or online at www.recreation.gov. Phone and online reservations may be made using Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover cards.

*When reserving campsites describe specific needs and ask for full descriptions of facilities and services.
(Accessibility may vary depending on the season.)*

Visitors with an Access Pass receive a 50% discount on camping in North Cascades. (Passport holders must give their number when making a reservation.)

Camping in Hozomeen



Accessible restrooms are available at RV Flats in the Hozomeen Campground. There are no fully accessible campsites in Hozomeen Campground, but sites in RV Flats are surfaced with compacted gravel. Boat ramps and docks may be accessible with help. The Lower Hozomeen Boat Launch has an accessible restroom and small picnic pavilion.

Camping in Goodell Creek Campground



Campsites are not fully accessible, having minimal obstacles such as branches, roots and rocks. Accessible toilets and a fully accessible picnic shelter are available; water spigots are located throughout the campground. Spring and summer finds this campground in bloom with native and ornamental flowers and shrubs. Goodell Creek Campground is open year-round. However, in winter the water is turned off and the area is not plowed. Upper and Lower Goodell group sites have accessible toilets and one fully accessible campsite at each group

campground. Picnic tables at these sites have extended tops.

*Camping in
Newhalem Creek
Campground*



Nestled in conifers, this campground has one accessible campsite in each of the campground's three loops. Check the main board at the entrance kiosk for current site numbers. Many other campsites offer minimal obstacles such as branches, roots or rocks. Water spigots are placed throughout the campground and flush toilets are available in the accessible restrooms. Several accessible trails lead from the campground. Newhalem Creek Campground is open from late spring to early fall. During the summer months on Friday and Saturday there are evening ranger programs at the amphitheater located across from campsite number 13 in Loop A.

*Camping in
Colonial Creek
Campground*



Campsites are carved from rich forest along the shores of Diablo Lake. There are three accessible campsites available, one site in the north unit and two sites in the south unit. Check the main board at the entrance kiosk for current site numbers. Several other campsites contain minimal obstacles, including branches, roots and rocks. Water spigots are located throughout the campground and most restrooms are accessible. An accessible fishing pier is available. The steep boat ramp may be difficult to navigate for people in wheelchairs. An information kiosk is staffed during summer months.

Colonial Creek Campground is open year-round. However, in winter the water is turned off, there is no garbage service, and the area is not plowed. During the summer months there are evening ranger programs at the amphitheater located next to campsite number III in the south unit.

Learning About North Cascades

Visitor Centers

Rangers in the park's visitor centers and Wilderness Information Center are knowledgeable about North Cascades and are there to assist visitors. They can provide personalized services, information, and interpretation about the park.

North Cascades National Park Service Complex Headquarters



Located at 810 State Route 20 in Sedro-Woolley, at the intersection of SR 20 and SR 9 North.

Accessible parking, curb ramps, accessible restrooms and a Northwest Interpretive Association bookstore are available at this information station. A three-dimensional, touchable relief map orients visitors to the park and forest lands nearby. Open year round.

Wilderness Information Center



Located 1 mile north of SR 20 (Milepost 105.3) on Ranger Station Road in Marblemount.

This center offers multi-media exhibits on backcountry trip planning and safety, a three-dimensional relief map and other touchable objects, and a Northwest Interpretive Association bookstore. Backcountry permits for North Cascades National Park Service Complex are issued at this center. Accessible parking and restrooms are available.

North Cascades National Park Visitor Center



Located at Milepost 120 on SR 20 near Newhalem.

The North Cascades Visitor Center has an information desk, auditorium, exhibits, and a bookstore. The auditorium offers presentations, including an award-winning 25-minute orientation film, *Return to Wilderness*, and a 20-minute slide show, *Meditation on Wilderness*. Either

of these presentations is on demand and is shown free throughout the day. Both are open-captioned. Assisted listening devices: both headsets and neck loops are available.

The visitor center has accessible power-assisted doors at front and rear entrances and accessible restrooms located in the visitor center. Accessible parking spaces are available adjacent to the visitor center. Large Print translations of the exhibit room are available.

Ranger-Led Activities

See the schedules at the visitor centers for a complete list of ranger activities, which range from evening campfire programs and guided walks to patio talks about North Cascades topics. Ask at the visitor centers for details, or visit online at www.nps.gov/noca. Most are accessible to persons in wheelchairs.

Park Publications

**Large
Print**

Many park publications – including books, maps, and other media – are available at visitor centers, park headquarters, and the Wilderness Information Center or online through the Northwest Interpretive Association at www.nwpubliclands.org. Park information can be downloaded from North Cascades' website www.nps.gov/noca and the font size increased to improve readability for those needing large-print materials.

Environmental Education

The National Park Service and North Cascade Institute offer a variety of environmental education programs for children and adults.

National Park Service



Most educational programs in North Cascades are accessible to students with disabilities. North Cascades staff members work with teachers and school districts to ensure that every student can be included in field trips, camping trips, and other educational park activities.

North Cascades Institute



Environmental Learning Center in Diablo offers a variety of hands-on programs, including Mountain School, a residential program for Elementary, Junior, and Senior-high school students from various school districts in western Washington. Other programs include summer youth adventures, family getaways, adult seminars and retreats, graduate studies and volunteer stewardship opportunities. All of the facilities at the Environmental Learning Center and several hiking trails are fully accessible. For more information about programs call (360) 856-5700 ext. 209 or visit www.ncascades.org.

Trails and Overlooks

Newhalem Area Trails



Sterling Munro Trail – located behind the visitor center this very easy trail, 330 yards in length, is an accessible boardwalk with a view of the Picket Range.

River Loop Trail – starting behind the visitor center this accessible, forested path to the Skagit River is 1.8 miles long.

Rock Shelter Trail – this easy 0.3 mile accessible trail leads to a historic site used by Native People 1,400 years ago.

Gorge Creek Falls



Gorge Overlook Trail – Accessible parking, toilets, and curb ramps are available. About half of this easy 0.8 mile trail is fully accessible and has views of a waterfall, Gorge Dam and Gorge Lake.

Diablo Lake Overlook



Accessible parking, curb ramps and toilets are available. This fantastic overlook has great views of the 910 acre Diablo Lake, one of three reservoirs created by Seattle City Light, which are scenic water gateways to remote areas. The lake, surrounded by glaciated peaks, is a brilliant turquoise blue in the summer. From here you can also take in Snowfield Peak, Pyramid Peak, Sourdough Mountain, and the 9,066 foot Jack Mountain.

Happy Creek Forest Walk



A 0.3 mile loop, fully accessible boardwalk travels through an ancient creek side forest. Accessible parking and toilet are available. The trail weaves through tall Western Red Cedars and Douglas Firs and along bubbling Happy Creek. Use caution if the boardwalk is frosty or wet. Parking is limited, especially for large vehicles.

Ross Lake Overlooks

Interpretive signs and expansive views of mountain-rimmed Ross Lake wait at these pullouts. Views can be seen from the car. There are no accessible facilities at these overlooks.

Other Activities

Fishing



There is an accessible fishing pier at the south section of Colonial Creek Campground. Fisherman and non-fisherman alike can get to the water's edge and overlook the lake.

Picnic Areas



Goodell Picnic Shelter - Picnic with the sights and sounds of the Skagit River. This fully accessible picnic shelter offers picnic tables and barbecue pits. Accessible parking and toilet are available.

Newhalem Group Sites – There are six picnic sites in the Newhalem Group Area, the first one of which is accessible. There is also an accessible restroom in the area.

North Cascades National Park Visitor Center – There are two accessible picnic tables behind the visitor center on the patio. Accessible restrooms are located inside the visitor center.

Colonial Creek Campground – Upon entering the south part of the campground there are accessible picnic tables immediately after the kiosk. There is also an accessible toilet in the area.

Stehekin

Lady of the Lake (ferry service to Stehekin)

Regular type wheelchairs, not exceeding 25 inches in width are advised.

The boats are able to accommodate regular sized wheelchairs, (23.5 inches in width), to differing degrees, dependant on the time of the year and the lake levels.

The waters of Lake Chelan are drawn down beginning in early September and are not brought back up to full pool until July 1. With each change of water level, boarding access is changed.

Please call to determine what the wheelchair accessibility is for the time you wish to travel by calling:
(509) 682-4584.

Stehekin Landing



A lift between dock level and deck level at the Stehekin Landing Resort is available at Stehekin Landing. This lift provides access to the general store, restaurant, guest rooms and accessible restrooms, as well as paths to the Golden West Visitor Center.

Golden West Visitor Center



A steep path from the Landing leads to the Visitor Center so people in wheelchairs will need assistance. Inside are restrooms, interactive exhibits covering a broad range of topics, a three-dimensional relief map and other touchable objects, the Golden West Gallery displaying artwork related to this special place, and a ten minute wilderness slide show. Closed captioning for the slide show is available upon request. A courtesy wheelchair is available at the Visitor Center. The Visitor Center is open from mid-March to mid-October. Contact the Golden West Visitor Center at (360) 854-7365 ext. 14 for current hours and open status.

Around Stehekin



The Stehekin Valley Road is paved for the first four miles from the Stehekin Landing and is gravel past Harlequin Campground. Traveling the road by foot, bicycle or bus provides views of the Stehekin River, glacier-carved jagged peaks and forests.

*Stehekin Landing
Resort and
General Store*



Located on the deck outside the restaurant is an accessible lift for use by those unable to navigate the stairs. The existing baggage hand carts don't fit the lift. Inquire at the rental station of the general store if you have questions on how to use the lift or are not able to locate it. The restrooms located in the store are handicap accessible. Designated guests rooms and cabins are also handicap accessible.

Stehekin Shuttle

The Stehekin Shuttle is not wheelchair accessible.

Buckner Orchard

The historic Buckner Orchard was homesteaded in the late 1890's and still functions as an orchard. In the fall, visitors and locals are encouraged to pick apples and make their own apple juice. It is not wheelchair accessible.

Rainbow Falls

One of Stehekin's major scenic wonders, Rainbow Falls, located 3 1/2 miles north of Stehekin Landing, plunges in a 312-foot veil. Restrooms and the trail at Rainbow Falls are not wheelchair accessible.

Questions or Comments?

Our goal is to welcome all visitors to their park. We are making a continuing effort to make improvements. If you have questions or would like to make a suggestion (the more specific the better) please contact the superintendent, North Cascades National Park Service Complex, by e-mail at *NOCA_Superintendent@nps.gov* or by phone at (360) 854-7205 or Gerry Cook, accessibility coordinator, by e-mail at *Gerry_Cook@nps.gov*, by phone at (360) 854-7266 or by mail c/o the National Park Service, 7280 Ranger Station Road, Marblemount, WA, 98267.

For more information regarding accessibility and the National Park Service, check online at *www.nps.gov/pub_aff/access/index.htm*. For concerns or complaints regarding accessibility, write to: EEO Program Manager, U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, org code 0008, Washington, DC 20240.

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